Arts Education Project Support

Support for projects providing high-quality, hands-on arts education experiences that help stimulate learning, prosperity, health, and well-being for Tennesseans.

Arts Education Project Support is a single grant category that consolidates the former Arts Education Community Learning, Arts Education Teacher Training, and Arts Pathways for Youth Success grant programs. This category supports a range of arts education projects including community-based arts learning, professional development for arts educators and teaching artists, and out-of-school time programs for youth. Projects must involve high-quality, hands-on arts education led by a professional artist or instructor and must include measurable goals and objectives.

Projects may not begin until July 1, 2026 and must conclude by June 15, 2027. Grant applications must have a single project focus with outcomes listed for one project only. Applications should not describe extensive educational programming involving multiple projects offered by the organization. Applicants may not apply for funds for the same project in another Tennessee Arts Commission grant category in the same fiscal year, and organizations may only apply for one Arts Education Project Support grant per year.

Funding will depend upon an organization's rating in the review process and upon the total amount of funds available to the Commission for grant allocation. This grant program is competitive, and most grant requests are not fully funded. Additional eligibility requirements are detailed through the guidelines below.

Eligibility

After reading the guidelines in full, first-time applicants should contact Chris Sweatt at **chris.sweatt@tn.gov** or 615-253-8914 prior to submitting an application to verify eligibility.

Applicants must be one of the following:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with a primary mission of arts and/or education
- Local government agencies
- Public K–12 schools or districts
- Libraries
- Institutions of higher learning

National or regional 501(c)3 organizations, chartered in Tennessee, and serving as an umbrella organization applying for funds for another group are restricted to **one** application **only** per fiscal year.

Arts organizations that receive revenue directly from a "New Specialty Earmarked Plate" under T.C.A 55-4-301 (a)(1) are ineligible for Commission grant funding.

Unique Entity ID (UEI): All applicants are required to have a Unique Entity ID. Information and application instructions can be found **here**.

Affirmative Duty to Report Major Organizational Change: Any grantee shall promptly notify the state in writing of any significant changes in the organization's structure, leadership or financial circumstances that could affect services provided under the grant contract resulting from this application. See other **Grantee Reporting Requirements**.

All Commission-sponsored programs, services, and facilities are fully accessible to all Tennessee artists and citizens. No person, on the basis of disability, age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by Federal or Tennessee law, shall be given preferential treatment or excluded from participation in services, programs, or employment provided by the Commission and its contracting agencies. If an individual believes they have been subjected to discrimination, they may file a complaint with the Civil Rights Enforcement Division of the Tennessee Attorney General's Office at the **Online Complaint Portal**; phone: 615.741.5825; email: **CRED@ag.tn.gov**; or by mail to P.O. Box 20207, Nashville, TN 37202.

Accessibility Statement

Program Requirements

Funding Tiers

Appropriate Funding

Ineligible Activities/Expenses

Evaluation Criteria

Required Documents

You will be prompted to create and upload the following documents in the **Documents** section of your Annual Application in the Online Grants System.

1. **Proof of Arts Advocacy.** Advocacy is educating and communicating to the public, including public officials, the importance of the arts and how public support of the arts can and has impacted your community. Examples of arts advocacy proof may include membership in Tennesseans for the Arts, copies of **recent** letters or emails (within the last 12 months) to state legislators and other state/local elected officials, photos of state/local elected officials at the applicant's arts events, newspaper articles or social media posts that create awareness about public support for the arts through the organization's activities (news articles that primarily market events are not acceptable), promoting the Specialty License Plate program and other pertinent print materials. **Proof of advocacy must be demonstrated by the applicant organization.** Applicants may **not** submit advocacy efforts conducted by contracted personnel. Multiple examples of arts advocacy will strengthen the application, but only one example that proves advocacy is required.

2. **Schedule:** Outline the schedule of activities with as much detail as possible at the time of application, such as the daily and/or weekly schedule for both participants and staff.

3. **Support Material(s):** Applicants must upload one or more support materials that showcase the project. Support materials can include artist resumes, reviews, clippings, photos, brochures, artistic samples, monitoring plans, lesson plans, past evaluations, letters of support, and links to videos directly related to the application proposal. Accepted file types include .pdf, .jpg, or .png. For video and audio samples, provide links to projects in the section labeled "Optional Material Link(s)" below the "Documents" section. Please ensure that all external links will be active during the review period. **NOTE: Please consolidate support materials into a single document where possible.**

4. **Board of Directors List: Only nonprofit organizations with 501(c)3 status upload this document. Entities of government and PK-12 public schools do not provide a Board of Directors List.** Note that Commission staff may request that grantees provide additional information about the board including but not limited to contact information and occupation during the grant period. The board list (at the time of application) must include only the following:

   - Full Name
   - Email address
   - Number of years on the board
   - Length of term(s)
   - NEW: Identify Executive Board Members (e.g. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer)

NOTE: Double check your board list to make sure it has all 5 pieces of the required information. If your organization's bylaws do not require term limits, include a statement on the Board List indicating this. **Legal requirements state that Commission funds granted to an organization may not be used as a payment of any kind, for any purpose, to members of an organization's board.**

of the report required to be filed annually with the Secretary of State's Office, you may also submit a copy of the email verification issued by the Secretary of State's Office or a copy of the online verification sheet maintained by the **Secretary of State's Office found here.**

If applicable, create and upload the following document in the **Organization** profile in your portal of the Online Grants System.

1. **Bylaws: Only nonprofit organizations with 501(c)3 status upload this document.** Upload the most recent copy of the Bylaws of the organization in the Organization profile.

Deadline & How to Apply

1. For new applicants, contact Director of Arts Education Chris Sweatt at chris.sweatt@tn.gov or 615-253-8914 to discuss eligibility.
2. Register to use the Online Grants System as an individual or on behalf of an organization to receive a username and password. Individuals who represent organizations should get their own, individual accounts and not share or "pass down" the username or password among staff. **You are strongly advised to register well in advance to the application deadline.** Anyone registering close to the deadline date can expect delays in the processing of their grant application.
3. Log in to the Online Grants System to complete your "Organization" profile and begin an application.
4. Use the "Organizations" link to the left in your Online Grants System portal to ensure that the record is complete and accurate. This information is as important as the application itself, and incomplete or erroneous data will impact your chances for funding. To open the record for completing/editing, click the "Edit" button at the top of the Organization screen.
5. Use the "People" link to ensure that the record is complete and accurate. This information will also be used in the review of the application. To open the record for editing, click the edit button at the top of the screen.
6. When both your "Organization" and "People" profiles are complete and accurate, select the "Apply for Grants" tab again and click the "Apply for an Annual Grant" link listed on the page.
7. Complete all of the application fields and create and upload required attachments.
8. Submit by **Tuesday, January 20, 2026, by 11:59 p.m. (CST).**

NOTE: The forms in this portal do not auto-save. Always click the "Save" button before navigating away from the form you are editing to save your work.

Beware that clicking the back navigation button on your web browser will exit you from the system and you will lose your work.

Association or Connection to Multiple Organizations: If you are associated with more than one organization, the organization that you were originally associated with will pre-populate in the organization name field on any newly opened application. To change to another associated organization, simply delete the pre-populated name and type in the correct organization.

For Projects Occurring

FY2027: July 1, 2026-June 15, 2027

Application Dates & Deadlines

Application Opens 11/3/2025

Application Deadline 1/20/2026

Eligible Applicants

501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with a primary mission of arts and/or education

Local government agencies

Public K–12 schools or districts

Libraries

Institutions of higher learning

Funding Requests

Tier 1: $12,000 for Series of Single-Session Projects

Tier 2: $18,000 for Multi-day or Multi-week Intensive Projects

Tier 3: $25,000 for Long-Term / Year-Round Projects

Grantee Reporting Requirements

Manage Annual Grants

Important Dates & Grant Management Instructions: As of FY25, Operating Support (MCI, PS, SUPS, SRPS) grantees are no longer required to upload examples of their Specialty License Plate Program promotion … Continue reading

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Address: 401 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Nashville, TN 37243 For accessibility accommodation requests including alternate digital formats, captioning, ASL, and assistive technologies please contact Kim Johnson, Director of Arts Access, 615-532-9797.

Phone: 615-741-1701

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